(b) if so, the prices fixed by the Central Government and the sugarcane growing States at present; and

(c) the reasons for the variations in the said prices?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, the power to fix the sugarcane prices vests with the Central Government. The Central Government, in terms of clause 3 of the said Order, fixes the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane payable by sugar factories for each sugar season (October—September). The Central Government has fixed the SMP for 2002-03 sugar season at Rs. 64.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery level of 8.5, percent subject to premium of 76 paise for every 0.1 percent point increase in recovery above that level.

State Governments have no power to fix prices of sugarcane.

Establishment of ITIs in HP

*259. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to establish Industrial Training Institutes in each district of Himachal Pradesh under the Training for Rural Youths for self employment with financial and other assistance from Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) by when, the above proposals would materialise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) Industrial Training Institutes are set up and run by States/UT Governments or private institutions. As per information received from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, there are already ITIs in each district of the State and at present there is no proposal under consideration to establish more ITIs with central assistance.

Number of BPL people

†*260. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has taken a decision to ascertain the number of people living Below Poverty Line in each State;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government had also finalized any policy to ascertain such numbers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the difference between the old and new procedure and policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has been estimating the incidence of poverty at National and State level since the late 1970s. The estimates of poverty were initially made from the method outlined in the Task Force on Projection of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand. This method was replaced by the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (commonly known as Lakdawala Committee, named after its Chairman) in March 1997 to estimate the poverty ratio (also known as the Head-Count ratio) at National and State level. According to this method, the percentage of people below the poverty line is estimated from state-specific poverty lines and state-specific consumer expenditure distribution, obtained from the large sample surveys on household consumer expenditure conducted by the NSSO once in approximately five years. Using this method, the poverty estimates of all the previous years have been re-worked and are available for the years 1973-74, 1977-78, 1983,1987-88, 1993-94 and 1999-2000.

(c) The Planning Commission in 1977 constituted a Task Force on Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demands which defined the poverty line as per capita expenditure level at which the average per capita per day calorie in take was 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The monetary equivalent of these norms were calculated as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs.49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas for 1973-74. These poverty lines were applied uniformly to all the States. Second, in order to ensure consistency with the national aggregates, the NSS consumer expenditure data was adjusted to the level of CSO consumption on a pro-rata basis across all expenditure classes. Using the poverty lines and the adjusted expenditure class-wise distribution of persons obtained from the national sample survey data on consumer expenditure of the States, the State-wise estimates of poverty were made.

This methodology for estimation of poverty at National and State level was regarded by some as inappropriate and even inadequate in

giving a representative picture of incidence of poverty in India. In September 1989, Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group to look into the methodology for estimation of poverty and to redefine the poverty line, if necessary. The Expert Group submitted its Report in July, 1993.

The Expert Group did not redefine the poverty line and accepted the one defined by the Task Force which was at national level. However, it recommended the disaggregation of the national poverty line into state-wise poverty lines in order to reflect the State-wise price differential. The important points of departure between the Expert Group methodology and the Task Force methodology are :

(a) In the new method, the NSS consumption expenditure data are not adjusted in any way and it is used as it is.

(b) The new method uses State-wise poverty lines as against national level poverty line used in the old method.

(c) The new method uses State-specific cost of living indices for updating the poverty line separately in rural and urban areas. The old method used only one all-India Index which is also same for rural and urban areas.

The full Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister accepted its recommendations with minor modifications in March, 1997.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Programmes for Employment Generation

1651. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether KVIC has launched district special employment programme and block development programme in backward districts of Andhra Pradesh for employment generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far these programmes have succeeded in generating employment in backward districts of the State?